

YOUNGSTOWN VINDICATOR (OH)
27 January 1983

CIA's Operations Are Essential To U.S. Security, Ex-Agent Says

By MARIE SHELLOCK
Vindicator Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency has its detractors, but its operations are critical to the security of the United States and that of friendly nations, a former CIA agent believes.

"Our government has a solemn obligation to protect the United States — and a moral obligation to our allies as well," Joseph E. Gurley, an ex-officer of the CIA, told the Rotary Club of Youngstown Wednesday.

Gurley, who is now director of corporate relations for Commercial Shearing Inc., based much of his talk about the role of intelligence in international affairs on his decade of service in the CIA.

"I'm no James Bond,"

Gurley said in his opening, but noted that he had used a number of names and lived under cover for a time.

Gurley, a native of Oregon and a graduate of the University of Oregon, sought a job in the CIA after he left the Air Force as a colonel following World War II.

Based in Hungary, Yugoslavia, the Mediterranean region and Washington, Gurley served in the agency at the height of the Cold War with the Russians in the 1950s.

Acknowledging that agents have been called "spooks" and "all sorts of things," Gurley expressed admiration for his former colleagues and pride in the work he shared with them.

"The people I worked with were of very high morals and weren't afraid to let their patriotism show," he said.

One mission he worked on was an infiltration of the Communist regime of Albania, in which he helped recruit and train agents who were slipped into the country.

When recruits who crossed the border or par-

achuted into the country did not respond, the CIA officers worried about breaches in the operation.

"It was a terrible thing for us, because we thought there was something wrong with our security," Gurley said.

Gurley told Rotarians that intelligence-gathering is as important now as it was during the Cold War. "We're living in a very hard, a very risky, a very treacherous world. We do have adversaries."

He outlined four purposes of intelligence-gathering and use:

- To collect information not available to embassy officials.
- To engage in counterintelligence, which protects our nation's secrets and discovers deception and planted information.
- To conduct liaison work and joint ventures with intelligence services of friendly nations.
- To engage in covert

paramilitary or political actions aimed at influencing, changing or destabilizing an unfriendly foreign governments.

While the full impact of the CIA's actions may never be known, they benefit not only the United States and its allies, but also "those nations who openly or implicitly depend upon us for their own security," Gurley explained.

In response to a question,

Gurley estimated that there were "several thousand" in the CIA when he served, but noted that he never knew the exact number because of the secrecy of operations.

Few people in the CIA know everything that goes on in the organization, but all its operations have the approval of the president, Gurley asserted.

That consent, he added, may never come in a mem-

orandum or a telephone call, but may simply be expressed by a nod in a meeting on national security.

Gurley said after his talk that he left the CIA to become general manager of Seaboard World Airlines.

"I felt I wanted a change and wanted to try the business world," he said. Nevertheless, he retains a high regard for the agency and keeps in touch with some of his former colleagues.